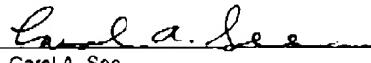


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission in accordance with § 1.6(d) addressed to Art Unit 1652, After Final Facsimile No. (703) 872-9307, the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313 on the date shown below.

Date June 18, 2003

By:


Carol A. See

PATENT
Docket No. GC381-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
David A. Estell) Group Art Unit: 1652
Serial No.: 09/462,846) Examiner: David Steadman
Filed: January 13, 2000)
For: *Bacillus subtilis* with an Inactivated)
Cysteine Protease-1)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED MAY 16, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 16, 2003, in the above-identified patent application. Applicant is submitting the present response prior to the two-month anniversary of the mailing of the Final Office Action. Thus, Applicants request that the Examiner either issue a Notice of Allowance/Issue Fee Due or provide an Advisory Action in the present case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks. Instructions to amend the Specification, and replacement or added paragraphs in clean form pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b), and a clean version of the rewritten, added, and/or cancelled claims with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(i) are included beginning on page 2 of this communication.

GC381 Resp to Final

Received from <650 845 6504> at 6/18/03 1:17:28 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]